

To whom it may concern:

I am voicing my strong support for House Bill 5499 and Senate Bill 522 and ask that both of these bills be passed by the committee, the full legislature and signed into law.

HB 5499 will allow CT residents to hunt on private land on Sunday. My wife, children and I are all very busy during the week and already have few opportunities to hunt, an activity that we all love to do. Opening Sunday to hunting on private land will allow all hard working CT families a greater opportunity to hunt, it will aid the DEEP to better manage wildlife, and as this change will allow Sunday hunting on private land only, it will not interfere with any outdoor activities that others wish to participate with on public land. In addition, hunting permits and tags are already relatively expensive in CT, especially when compared to other states. For example, it would be cheaper for my family to hunt in Rhode Island as non residents of RI than it is for us to hunt in CT as residents. It is a large expense for my family. Given the opportunities that we currently have to hunt in CT, I sometimes wonder if the fees are worth what we get. Opening Sunday to private land hunting would have many benefits, not the least of which is increasing the value of CT's already overpriced hunting fees.

SB 522 will allow the DEEP to regulate the hunting of bear in CT. There are a variety of reasons to allow this including, but not limited to, the fact that bear are often a nuisance to both people and other wildlife. Bear can be a large detriment to deer and small animal populations, for example. They need to be regulated if and when the DEEP deems it necessary.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,

Steve Thompson  
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